

REMARKS

Amendments

Claim 22 is cancelled, and claims 29 and 30 are amended to be in independent form. As a result, claims 28 and 31 are amended to depend from claim 29, rather than cancelled claim 22. New claims 32 and 33 correspond to claims 28 and 31, except that they depend from claim 30. Claim 26 is amended to recite that part of the at least one intermediate fraction obtained from step (b) is mixed with the heavy fraction prior to step (c1). See claim 16.

Rejection under 35 USC §112, first paragraph

Claims 22, 28 and 31 are rejected as allegedly being non-enabled. Applicants respectfully disagree. In the rejection, it is implied that the claimed process must expressly recite the removal of sulfur compounds. Yet, the claim recites a process, the steps of which are clearly enabled. Nothing in the rejection suggests otherwise.

In any event, claim 22 is cancelled and claims 28 and 30 are amended to depend from claim 29, now in independent form. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph

Claim 26 is amended to recite that part of the at least one intermediate fraction obtained from step (b) is mixed with the heavy fraction prior to step (c1). Claim 22 is cancelled and claims 28 and 30 are amended to depend from claim 29, now in independent form. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC §103

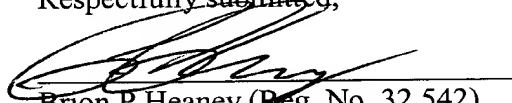
Claims 11-31 are rejected as allegedly being obvious in view of Podrebarac (US 6,444,118). Podrebarac issued from a patent application filed February 16, 2001, subsequent to the priority date claimed by applicants under 35 USC §119. For purposes of perfecting applicants' claim for priority under 35 USC §119, enclosed herewith is a certified translation of the priority application, French patent application No. 00/04.084, filed March 29, 2000.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration is respectfully request. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE". If there are any remaining issues which can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 22.

Please amend the claims as follows.

--26. A process of producing gasoline with a low sulfur content from a gasoline feedstock comprising sulfur compounds, diolefins, olefins, aromatics, nitrogen and acetylenic compounds, said process comprising at least the following steps:

- (a1) conducting at least one selective hydrogenation of the diolefins and acetylenic compounds comprised in the feedstock,
- (a2) increasing the molecular weight of sulfur compounds present in at least one of the feedstock or the effluent from step (a1),
- (b) conducting at least one separation of effluent obtained at the end of step a1 into at least three fractions: a light fraction comprising olefins, and from which substantially all of the sulfur has been removed, a heavy fraction in which most of the sulfur compounds initially comprised in the gasoline feedstock is concentrated, and at least one intermediate fraction having a depleted content of olefins and aromatics ~~and mixing a part of at least one intermediate fraction with the heavy fraction,~~
- (c1) conducting at least one treatment of the heavy fraction separated at step (b) on a catalyst enabling the sulfur compounds to be at least partially decomposed or hydrogenated,
- (c2) treating effluent from step (c1) on a catalyst so as to decompose the sulfur compounds, and
- (d) conducting at least one step to remove the sulfur and nitrogen from at least one intermediate fraction,

wherein a part of said at least one intermediate fraction obtained from step (b) is mixed with the heavy fraction prior to step (c1).

28. A process according to claim 29 22, further comprising increasing the molecular weight of sulfur compounds present in at least one of the feedstock or the effluent from the selective hydrogenation.

29. A process ~~according to claim 22, further comprising for producing~~
gasoline with a low sulfur content from a gasoline feedstock comprising:

conducting at least one selective hydrogenation of the diolefins and acetylenic compounds comprised in the feedstock; separating an effluent of the at least one selective hydrogenation into at least three fractions; and

conducting at least one treatment of one of the fractions separated on a catalyst enabling the sulfur compounds to be at least partially decomposed or hydrogenated.

30. A process ~~according to claim 22, further comprising for producing gasoline with a~~
low sulfur content from a gasoline feedstock comprising:

conducting at least one selective hydrogenation of the diolefins and acetylenic compounds comprised in the feedstock; separating an effluent of the at least one selective hydrogenation into at least three fractions; and

removing the sulfur and nitrogen from at least one of the separated fractions.

31. A process according to claim 29 22, wherein the fractions comprise a light fraction, an intermediate fraction, and a heavy fraction.--